

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 291333Z FEB 76
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TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3875

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTIO, BTRA, BFOL, SA

SUBJECT: SAWARY TRADING AND CONTRACTING COMPANY SUPERMARKET/SHOPPING
CENTER PROJECT

REF USDOC 3107

1. EMBASSY DISCUSSED CONTENTS REFTEL WITH MAHMOUD LAHHAM OF SAWARY WHO QUITE PLEASED RE RESPONSE FROM U.S. THUS FAR AND SCOPE OF FIRMS INTERESTED.

2. LAHHAM AMAZED THAT ANY U.S. FIRM SHOULD RAISE RELIGIOUS QUESTION, PARA 3 REFTEL, AND STATES HE INTERESTED TALK TO ANY U.S. FIRM ON BUSINESS MATTERS REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION, SEX, COLOR OR NATIONAL ORIGIN. HE STATES SULEYMANS, OWNERS OF SAWARY, FEEL SAME WAY IF U.S. FIRM HAS NO ANTI-ARAB PREJUDICE.

3. LAHHAM STATED THAT HE NOW WILL BE STARTING HIS TRIP MAY 15, 1976 AND WILL BE IN SAN FRANCISCO AREA ON OR ABOUT MAY 20. HE WILL DEPART THERE FOR MINNEAPOLIS ON JUNE 5, 1976 AND REMAIN ABOUT FIVE DAYS. FROM THERE HE WILL PROCEED TO CHICAGO, INDIANAPOLIS AND NEW YORK CITY FOR INDEFINITE STAY ACCORDING TO INTEREST THESE AREAS AND DEPENDING ON SUCCESS PREVIOUS CONTACTS. FIRMS IN MINNESOTA MAY CONTACT. COPIES OF LETTERS SENT TO EMBASSY VIA APO NEW YORK 09697 WILL BE GIVEN LAHHAM TO INSURE RECEIPT ALL MESSAGES.

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4. LAHHAM STATED SAWARY WANTS DIRECT INVOLVEMENT

OF U.S. FIRMS, ESPECIALLY IN FOOD MARKETING SECTOR,
OF WHAT IS PLANNED BE MOST MODERN SHOPPING CENTER
IN NEAR EAST.

5. INCIDENTALLY, LAHHAM IS U.S.-EDUCATED SYRIAN
AND MARRIED TO U.S. NATIONAL. LIVED IN U.S. 11
YEARS. DESPITE OFFER FROM FRENCH FIRM DO WHOLE
PROJECT HE PREFERS U.S. PARTICIPATION.
HORAN

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